

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 AID-20 DRC-01 /165 W

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R 261147Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5985

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL UDORN

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 6640

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, LA

SUBJECT: RLG ANNOUNCES CHANGES OF GOVERNOR IN PROVINCE
OF VIENTIANE AND OF FIRST DEPUTY PREFET IN
PREFECTURE OF VIENTIANE

1. RLG HAS MADE PUBLIC CABINET ORDER OF SEPTEMBER 19
REAPPOINTING CHAO KHOUENG (GOVERNOR) OF VIENTIANE
PROVINCE, PHAGNA OUAN SANITH AS COUNSELOR OF RLG EMBASSY
IN PARIS. OUAN WILL BE REPLACED BY PHAGNA SISOUVAN,
FORMER GOVERNOR OF SAVANNAKHET, WHOSE ASSIGNMENT LAST
JUNE TO REPLACE BOUNLIENG CHOUNRAMANY AS CHAO KHOUENG
OF KHAMMOUANE PROVINCE (VIENTIANE 4610) HAS APPARENTLY
BEEN BROKEN. ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHANGE IN VIENTIANE
GOVERNORSHIP FOLLOWS BY FIVE DAYS BELATED REPORT IN
OFFICIAL LAO PRESSE THAT CABINET ORDER OF AUGUST 21,
1973, HAD NAMED M. TANNAVONG VORABOUT (DIRECTOR OF
PERSONNEL IN MINISTRY OF INTERIOR) AS NEW FIRST DEPUTY
PREFET OF VIENTIANE PREFECTURE.

2. THESE CHANGES MAY BE SIGNIFICANT IN CONTENT OF
ARTICLE 10 OF SEPTEMBER 14 IMPLEMENTING PROTOCOL WHICH
PROVIDES THAT FOR NEUTRALIZATION OF VIENTIANE AND LUANG
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PRABANG PREFETS AND DEPUTY PREFETS, CHAO MUONGS AND

DEPUTY CHAO MUONGS OF TWO CITIES SHOULD BE AGREED UPON BY THE JOINT COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT. NEW DESIGNATIONS MAY INDICATE RLG MAKING ADVANCE PREPARATIONS FOR COALITION PERIOD. WHILE PROTOCOL DOES NOT REQUIRE MUTUAL AGREEMENT FOR CHAO KHOUENG OF VIENTIANE, THAT POSITION(WHICH HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR AREAS IN PROVINCE OUTSIDE OF CITY) MAY ASSUME ADDED IMPORTANCE. THERE HAVE BEEN NO APPARENT REACTIONS FROM LPF TO THIS "RESHUFFLING."

3. FOR PARIS,: OUAN, 52, HAS, SINCE JOINING CIVIL SERVICE IN 1948, HELD A NUMBER OF DIPLOMATIC ASSIGNMENTS, INCLUDING COUNSELOR OF RLG EMBASSY AT PHNOM PENH (62-65) AN

BANGKOK (67-70). HE WAS APPOINTED CHAO KHOUENG OF LUANG PRABANG IN OCTOBER 1970, AND WAS TRANSFERRED TO VIENTIANE IN EARLY 1972. OUAN HAD DEVELOPED A REPUTATION FOR PERSONAL INTEGRITY AND HAS BEEN ABLE TO WORK HARMONIOUSLY WITH BOTH LAO AND AMERICANS.
WHITEHOUSE

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